

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 /072 W

-----050402Z 053977 /66

R 041551Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9504

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CG, BE

SUBJECT: SHABA INVASION: ARTICLE IN NEWS MAGAZINE "SPECIAL"

REF: KINSHASA 2905

1. WE HAVE FOUND NO INTERVIEWS WITH GENERAL MBUMBA IN ANY OF THE RECENT ISSUES OF "SPECIAL." WE BELIEVE THE EDITION REPORTEDLY STOPPED BY GOZ (REFTEL) WAS PROBABLY "SPECIAL" DATED MARCH 23 WHICH, AMONG EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN SHABA, HAD ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE MERCENARIES' PLAN." THIS ARTICLE, REPORTEDLY BASED ON OPPOSITION SOURCES IN BRUSSELS, REPEATED VIEW THAT SHABA INVASION WAS BUT ONE PART OF A DETAILED, THREE-FRONT INVASION PLAN DESIGNED TO OVERTHROW PRESIDENT MOBUTU. THE SHABA INVASION WAS TO TEST THE REACTIONS OF THE FAZ AND TO BE FOLLOWED "AT THE END OF MARCH OR FIRST DAYS OF APRIL" BY THE REST OF THE INVASION PLAN, AS FOLLOWS:

1) FROM NOQUI, ON THE LOWER ZAIRE RIVER, A COLUMN OF TWO THOUSAND EX-GENDARMES AND SOME THIRTY "EUROPEANS/ WOULD ATTACK BOMA AND MATADI AND THEN MOVE ON KINSHASA.

2) FROM DAMBA AND QUIMBELE, A COLUMN OF TWO THOUSAND

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EX-GENDARMES AND SOME TWENTY EUROPEANS, WOULD ATTACK KASONGO-LUNDA AND THEN SEPARATE, ONE GROUP MOVING TOWARDS KIKWIT AND THE OTHER TOWARDS KENGE.

2. THE ARTICLE REPORTED OTHER RUMORS CIRCULATING IN BRUSSELS WHICH IT CAUTIONED SHOULD BE RECEIVED WITH "CIRCUMSPECTION, IF NOT SKEPTICISM." ONE WAS THAT THESE EUROPEAN MERCENARIES WITH

THE EX-KATANGAN GENDARMES WERE MOSTLY VETERANS OF CONGO AND
BIAFRA SERVICE AND HAD BEEN PROMISED FB 26,000 (US\$700) PER WEEK.
ARTICLE REPORTED THAT "ONLY SMALL NUMBER," APPROXIMATELY FIFTY,
CUBANS "WOULD " (SIC) INTERVENE IN ZAIRE, RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOWING
EX-GENDARMES HOW TO USE SOVIET SURFACE-TO-SURFACE AND SURFACE-TO-AIR
MISSILES USED BY MPLA. RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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